

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05817 221728Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 221445Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4590  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5817

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EGEN, GW, GE, WB, UK  
SUBJECT: REMAINING DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR

REF: BONN 6494

1. ALTHOUGH ATTENTION IS NOW FOCUSED ON RECENT SOVIET DEMARCHES ON ALLIEDFLAG PATROLS (STATE 086258), THERE STILL REMAINS THE QUESTION OF WHAT FURTHER STEPS THE GDR COULD TAKE TO DO AWAY WITH THE REMAINING DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR. WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT THE GDR WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO DO AWAY WITH SUCH DISTINCTIONS. THIS MESSAGE IS IN RESPONSE TO BONN'S REFTTEL ON THE SUBJECT. WE UNDERSTAND USBER IS PREPARING A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. THE FEW DISTINCTIONS WHICH REMAIN BETWEEN THE GDR AND EAST BERLIN APPEAR LIMITED TO A) THE SPECIAL STATUS OF EAST BERLIN DELEGATES TO THE GDR VOLKSKAMMER, B) THE GDR PRACTICE OF ISSUING SEPARATE VISAS FOR THE "CAPTIAL OF THE GDR," AND C) GDR PRACTICE THUS FAR OF NOT TAMPERING  
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WITH THE ESTABLISHED BOUNDARIES OF EAST BERLIN.

3. EAST BERLIN DELEGATES TO THE VOLKSKAMMER: WHILE THE GDR HAS DISCONTINUED PUBLICATION OF THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT AND HAS ISSUED A SINGLE IDENTITY CARD TO VOLKSKAMMER MEMBERS FROM THE GDR AND EAST BERLIN, IT HAS NOT GONE FURTHER TO INSTITUTE THE DIRECT ELECTION OF EAST BERLIN

DELEGATES TO THE VOLKSKAMMER. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE GDR PRESSED THE SOVIETS TO APPROVE THE DIRECT ELECTION OF EAST BERLIN DELEGATES BEFORE THE 1976 VOLKSKAMMER ELECTIONS, BUT WERE REFUSED. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN EAST BERLIN SHORTLY BEFORE THE OCTOBER, 1976 ELECTIONS, A GDR SPOKESMAN TOLD FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AT AN OFFICIAL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION THAT THE GDR HAD NO INTENTION OF ALTERING THE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE. THE NEXT CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ENACTING SUCH A CHANGE WILL NOT COME UNTIL THE NEXT VOLKSKAMMER ELECTIONS IN 1980. ANY ALTERATION IN THE MORE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WOULD ENTAIL EITHER A SPECIAL ELECTION OR THE PUBLIC PROCLAMATION OF A NEW VOLKSKAMMER VOTING LAW THAT WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL THE 1980 ELECTIONS, IT COULD BE THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GDR IN 1979 THAT IT WOULD ENACT SUCH LEGISLATION.

4. SEPARATE VISAS FOR THE "CAPITAL OF THE GDR": ALTHOUGH THE GDR HAS REMOVED THE CONTROL POINTS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR FORMERLY USED TO CHECK FOREIGN TRAVELERS FOR THE PROPER GDR VISA, IT CONTINUES TO OBSERVE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN DAY VISAS ISSUED FOR EAST BERLIN ONLY AND VISAS FOR THE GDR. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE OBSERVED GDR POLICE VEHICLES STATIONED ALONG MAJOR ROADS JUST OUTSIDE THE EAST BERLIN CITY LIMITS APPARENTLY PERFORMING SPOT CHECKS ON FOREIGN REGISTERED CARS. THIS PROCEDURE SHOWS A GDR NEED TO CONTINUE CONTROLLING TRAFFIC BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR AS LONG AS IT ISSUES A SEPARATE EAST BERLIN VISA. ANY MOVE TO DO AWAY WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EAST BERLIN DAY VISA PROCEDURE AND TO ISSUE ONLY A STANDARD GDR VISA INSTEAD WOULD REMOVE AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE DISTINCTION BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR. OF THE REMAINING DISTINCTIONS, THIS ONE SEEMS TO US A LIKELY EARLY CANDIDATE FOR CHANGE BY THE GDR. WHILE NOT TOUCHING ALLIED RIGHTS DIRECTLY, THIS CHANGE COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS.

5. GDR TREATMENT OF EAST BERLIN DISTINCT BOUNDARIES: THE GDR HAS IN THE PAST REFRAINED FROM MODIFYING THE BOUNDARIES OF EAST BERLIN. WITH THE GDR NOW HAVING BEGUN A MAJOR BUILDING PROGRAM IN EAST BERLIN THAT INCLUDES THE CREATION OF A NEW NINTH CITY DISTRICT NEAR BIESDORF - MARZHAN, RUMORS ALSO ARISEN THAT THE GDR MAY PLAN TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF EAST BERLIN IN THE PROCESS. INITIAL STUDIES OF GDR PLANS HAVE THUS FAR FAILED TO CONFIRM THESE RUMORS. MEANWHILE, AN EMBOFF HAS HEARD FROM AN EAST GERMAN SOURCE THAT THE GDR MAY BE PLANNING THE CREATION, BEGINNING IN 1980, OF A TENTH CITY DISTRICT,

INCLUDING BERNAU AND WANDLITZ WHICH CLEARLY LIES  
OUTSIDE THE CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF EAST BERLIN. POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

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